# UINTAH COUNTY

Uintah county

## STATE OF UTAH

*Our past is the nation's future.*

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November 28, 2011

Ms. Dana Dean, P.E.,
Associate Director Mining
Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT  84114-5001

Re: Comments Red Leaf Resources Application for Large Mining Operations in Utah, M4470103

Dear Ms. Dean:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to write this letter in support of Red Leaf Resource's Application for a large mine permit for the purpose of developing oil shale in Uintah County.  As the Economic Development Executive Director, I believe that these resources can produce significant economic benefits for our county and also for the state.  I believe that these resources can be developed and produced through environmentally sustainable practices.

The development of oil shale resources provides a great economic benefit to the entire state of Utah.  Those benefits include: Direct state, local and federal taxes, growth in secondary labor market, and many other supportive industries.  Socio-economic gains will come forth as resource development provides long-term, stable economics and employment in our area.

As the Economic Development Director, I am fully aware that the Red Leaf project has the potential to create approximately 200 new direct jobs as it expands its operations.  Mining operations tend to provide long-term stable employment as well as higher wages.  Red Leaf is ready to deliver this type of employment to our community.

Utah has approximately 330 billion barrels of oil shale resources.  In the face of rising energy prices and increased global competition for energy resources, it is time to critically assess how the United States will provide for long-term adequate energy supply.  Oil shale development can and should be part of the solution.  The oil shale resources in Utah alone are 1.5 times the size of the proven oil reserves in Saudi Arabia.  The only path to determining the proven reserves in Utah is to allow for successful commercial development.  If only 50% of the Utah resources prove to be economically and technically feasible to develop, the reserve would significantly surpass the current estimated U.S. oil reserve of 21 billion barrels and place our country in the top five countries for proven oil reserves.  With the vast deposits of oil shale and its commitment to energy development and sustainability, Utah is in a unique position to advance greater national energy and economic security through development of these resources.

I realize that some people are concerned about the environmental consequences of developing oil shale resources. I also believe that these resources can be developed in a manner that protects the environment and supports Utah's core environmental values. I am familiar with the Red Leaf process and believe that the Company's central values are built around delivering the best available technology to manage the environment.

The United States needs to development all of its resources which includes oil shale. Utah is in a great position to demonstrate responsible and sustainable oil shale development. I do not believe that environmental protection and energy development are mutually exclusive; rather it is very possible and extremely imperative that we pursue both of these objectives. It is crucial that in managing our resources we understand it is equally important to protect our access to resources as a priority for economic development and energy security. For this reason, I encourage the Division of Oil Gas and Mining to expeditiously finalize the permit for Red Leaf Resources so that timely production of resources can be realized.

Sincerely,

Tammie G. Lucero
Executive Director – Uintah County Economic Development